

Internet Public Policy Themes: A Literature Review

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Abstract

The current paper aims to present a literature review for the researches conducted on internet public policy themes and provides a classification scheme for future research agenda. This research conducts a literature review based on the studies published in English and in a peer-reviewed journal from 1979 to 2015. Simple criterion method was used to find articles. 427 articles identified in 267 academic journals. All these articles were analyzed by year of publication, number of articles in the selected journal and area topics. This extended literature review provides an exhaustive and valuable source for future internet public policy research for practitioners and scholars by presenting a comprehensive list of references. Although, part of this article was published by (Kashani & Kasmani, 2018), the references listing associated with each internet public policy issue is original.

Keywords: Internet; cyberspace; public policy; policy theme; simple criterion method; literature review; bibliographic study.

Cite this article: Kashani, B. H., & Kasmani, A. N. (2018). Internet Public Policy Themes: A Literature Review. *International Journal of Management, Accounting and Economics*, 5(6), 360-410.

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Introduction

Internet is a medium through which it is possible to provide large volumes of information for users with the lowest cost and time. In addition to information provision for users, this medium has become an integral part of life, penetrated into their daily and personal lives; and influenced the various dimensions such as communication, education, entertainment, business and so on. Emergence of internet coincides with the debates about global village and globalization; a concept seeking to create a new world order and direct all cultures and human activities under an umbrella. Internet, in its current format, is a mean to integrate the human life style throughout the world regardless of nations' cultural requirements and specific conditions. The effects of internet use in today world are such that we are now encountered with two-faced globalization phenomenon; it means that the real world has been exposed to contrast with virtual one in a way that most of daily activities will be meaningless without the existence of new communication and information technologies. Internet empowers users to control communication by supplying technological facilities in a way that today audiences are not merely watchers of media programs; but they can rapidly show feedback to any content or even produce it. Undoubtedly, the performance of this medium in development of a nation is based on the quality of policymaking framework, decisions made and processes that are used in formulation of any decision in macro and micro levels in this area. Thus, governments attempt to make policies in the field of internet, as a public good, to prevent the threats and take advantage of the new communication technology opportunities.

Policymaking plays an important role in a state's public media and frames the communication atmosphere in a society. Media content and structure and specially their understanding from their roles are influenced by the approach dominant in formulation of media laws in a country and therefore, the complicated and changing nature of this area has significant consequences for future of media. Practically, media management is not possible without considering the macro policies. These kind of policies specify the goals and the route for media managers. Therefore, development of a media policymaking system is a necessity in the field of media studies for promotion of expectations and achievement of desired goals in the area of cyberspace.

Global increase in the use of internet has established many challenges in its management and regulation. Internet governance involves extensive issues from technical administration to more public debates such as control over internet. In spite of international nature of internet, the difficulty of compromise on these rules in global level has contributed to the formulation of more laws in national level. The sum of these efforts have resulted in establishment of Internet Governance Forum (IGF) by World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS) on 16 November 2005 to discuss freely the opinions of all stakeholders in member states about the issues related to internet governance (Mueller, 2010). From a legal perspective, (Benkler, 2000) introduced a model with three layers of governance including physical infrastructure, logical and content layers. The first layer deals with travels of information; the second layer controls the infrastructure and the third one contains the information signaled through the network. (WGIG (The Working Group on Internet Governance), 2005) defines internet governance as the "shared principles, norms, rules, decision-making procedures, and programs that shape the evolution and use of the Internet".

For investigating the policymaking framework in cyberspace and becoming an effective participant in internet governance, it is required to determine the internet public policy themes. *Public policy themes* are those controversial issues related to government actions, in respect of a specific field, such as legislation, administrative acts and judicial decisions intended to deal with a given social condition. Secretariat of the Commission on Science and Technology for Development (CSTD Secretariat, 2014) identified international public policy issues pertaining to the internet by the mandate that is given by United Nations Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC). The current paper presents a comprehensive review and classifies the literature of internet public policy themes research based on the CSTD Secretariat report between 1979 and 2015 that has published previously by (Kashani & Kasmani, 2018) in Persian language. It also provides references listing associated with each internet public policy issue that is the original work of this paper. This research will serve as a roadmap of internet public policy for both academics and practitioners. This research will serve as a roadmap of internet public policy for both academics and practitioners.

Research methodology

Scope

This research conducts a literature review based on the studies published in English and in a peer-reviewed journal excluding conference proceedings, theses, dissertations, textbooks, and unpublished working papers since it is believed that highest level of research results are produced by such source of information (Nord & Nord, 1995). Also, focusing on the type of sources used provides a more global vision of subject matter. The time frame for literature review in this paper is defined from 1979 to 2015.

Search strategy

Development of search strategy starts with the identification of relevant data sources and keywords. The current research uses internet databases since they are now the most effective and economic ways for conducting researches. The databases from which articles were retrieved included Google Scholar, ScienceDirect, Springer, Emerald, IEEE, Taylor & Francis, InderSciences, Sage, Wiley and World Scientific. Simple criterion method based on CSTD Secretariat report' classification scheme was used to find articles. Namely, articles embracing each internet public policy sub-theme in the title, abstract and keywords were selected for preliminary review. Initially, 666 publications were identified. After reading the abstracts and excluding the works because of lack of detail and vagueness, the number of articles reduced to 470. The final step was to examine thoroughly the whole papers and checking them for their relevancy to internet public policy by which, consequently, 427 articles in 267 journals were identified suitable for analysis in the current research.

Classification method

The classification framework, shown in figure 1, was adopted from Secretariat of the Commission on Science and Technology for Development (CSTD Secretariat, 2014)'

report called “The Mapping of International Internet Public Policy Issues”. All articles identified in this research were classified into frothy sub-themes under seven themes.

Infrastructure and standardization

This category of themes involves literature on internet public policy research pertaining to telecommunication infrastructure, technical standards, web standards, internet protocol numbers, domain name system, root zone, net neutrality, cloud computing, convergence, and internet of things.

1. *Telecommunication infrastructure*: This contains issues related to telecommunication components such as twisted pair, coaxial cable, optical fiber, satellite transmission, radio transmission, and terrestrial microwave.
2. *Technical standards*: These standards shape the internet architecture and affect the internet use, digital properties and human rights protection. Some examples of such standards are Transmission Control Protocol (TCP), Internet Protocol Version 6 (IPv6) and File Transfer Protocol (FTP).
3. *Web standards*: These are protocols and conventions influencing the creation and administration of web sites and web services by facilitating the sharing of information, display of content, and web interaction and involves the data format of resources, Hypertext Markup Language (HTML), the addressing of resources, Uniform Resource Locators (URLs) and the transport of resources across the internet, Hyper Text Transfer Protocol (HTTP) (Kelly, 1999).
4. *Internet protocol numbers*: These cover unique numeric addresses for identification of any single device connecting to internet on a TCP/IP network. The origin, destination, and intermediate points of transmitted data can be identified by these addresses (Ryan, et al., 2007).
5. *Domain name system*: The function of domain name system (DNS) is translation of a domain name to a corresponding unique numerical Internet Protocol address through which it facilitates the navigation of internet for users (Manheim & Solum, 2003). It resembles an internet address book.
6. *Root zone*: This is a global list of highest level of DNS hierarchy containing the numeric addresses of 13 root servers located in various parts of the world (Meuller, 2004).
7. *Net neutrality*: This represents a reasonable and appropriate data treatment and internet traffic management by governments and internet service providers (ISPs) for the prevention of unfair broadband discrimination in the field of technical, economic and the human rights aspects (Wu, 2003).
8. *Cloud computing*: This is an on-demand computing model based on internet to supply, consume and deliver computing resources in the form of infrastructure, software and platform in a unified, automated and measurable environment (Mell & Grance, 2011).

9. *Convergence*: This contains the conglomerate of telecommunication, broadcasting, information management, and media through the same transmission platform at three levels of technological, structural and services (Iosifidis, 2002).
10. *The Internet of Things (IoT)*: According to the definition of European Research Cluster on the Internet of Things cited in (Psannis, et al., 2014: 476) IoT could be defined as a "dynamic global network infrastructure with self-configuring capabilities based on standard and interoperable communication protocols where physical and virtual "things" have identities, physical attributes, and virtual personalities and use intelligent interfaces, and are seamlessly integrated into the information network".

Security

1. *Cybersecurity*: This "involves protection of data, identity information and hardware from unauthorized access or harm" (Pusey & Sadara, 2011: 82) pertaining to three fields of security for networks, nation and the general public.
2. *Cybercrime*: This means any criminal activity involving computer integrity, computer related issues and computer content (Wall, 2004).
3. *Critical information infrastructure*: According to Internet Engineering Task Force (IETF), this can be defined as "systems that are so vital to a nation that their incapacity or destruction would have a debilitating effect on national security, the economy, or public health and safety" (Shirey, 2007).
4. *Cyberconflict*: This refers to any conflict occurring to a computer-mediated environment.
5. *Child safety online*: This is the protection of youths, especially minors, against online threats.
6. *Encryption*: This is "transformation of data into an unreadable form. Its purpose is to ensure privacy by keeping information hidden from anyone for whom it is not intended, even those who have access to the encrypted data" (Walker, 1999: 12).
7. *Spam*: This covers "any unsolicited electronic message that contains commercial or objectionable content transmitted without prior consent through any communication media including, but not limited to, e-mails, Mobile Messaging, fax, Bluetooth and instant messaging services" (Al-Kadhi, 2011: 50).
8. *Digital signature*: This is a technique to verify the integrity of the message and authentication of the message sender's identity (Kling, et al., 1999).

Human rights

1. *Freedom of expression*: (The Universal Declaration of Human Rights, 1948), Article 19, defines freedom of expression as the "right of every individual to hold

opinions without interference and to seek, receive and impart information and ideas through any media and regardless of frontiers”.

2. *Privacy and data protection*: Information privacy can be defined as “the policies, procedures, and other controls that determine which personal information is collected, how it is used, with whom it is shared, and how individuals who are the subject of that information are informed and involved in this process” (Steinfeld & Archuleta, 2006: 68). Data protection is also a legal mechanism to protect information privacy.
3. *Rights of people with disabilities and the Internet*: This covers the issues pertaining to handicapped people to access internet and carry out their online daily activities.
4. *Women's rights online*: This deals with the protection of females against any discrimination in respect to social, economical, and political rights over internet.

Legal

1. *Jurisdiction*: This involves all legal decisions made by governments and states in respect to online activities.
2. *Arbitration*: This consists of dispute resolution proceedings both via the internet or based on online contractual agreements (Girsberger & Schramm, 2002).
3. *Copyright*: Rosenoer (1997) defines copyright as “a set of enforceable rights to prevent unauthorized persons from making a copy of a work for a period of time”.
4. *Trademark*: Lanham Act (1988) describes trademark as “word, name, symbol, or device, or any combination thereof used by a person to identify and distinguish his or her goods, from those manufactured, or sold by others and to indicate the source of the goods”.
5. *Labor law*: This deals with the regulation of relationships among employees, employers, labor unions and government pertaining to internet.
6. *Intermediaries*: According to the definition of Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD), internet intermediaries are those entities that “bring together or facilitate transactions between third parties on the Internet. They give access to, host, transmit and index content, products and services originated by third parties on the Internet or provide Internet-based services to third parties” (Perset, 2010: 9).

Economic

1. *E-commerce*: World Trade Organization (1998) defines e-commerce as “the production, distribution, marketing, sale, or delivery of goods and services by electronic means”.

2. *E-money and virtual currencies*: “Electronic money refers to "stored value" or prepaid payment mechanisms for executing payments via point of sale terminals, direct transfers between two devices, or over open computer networks such as the Internet” (Basel Committee on Banking Supervision, 1998: 3-4). In contrast, “a virtual currency is a type of unregulated, digital money, which is issued and usually controlled by its developers, and used and accepted among the members of a specific virtual community” (European Central Bank , 2012: 13).
3. *Consumer protection*: This is a form of government regulation to protect consumers against online fraudulent business activities, unsafety products or services and inadequate information in marketplace.
4. *Taxation*: This refers to charging sales tax on online services and products as a source of revenue for the government (Best & Teske, 2002).

Development

1. *Access*: The process by which it is possible to connect into internet via computer or mobile networks.
2. *Digital divide*: This is "the gap between individuals, households, businesses and geographical areas at different socio-economic levels with regard to both their opportunities to access ICT and to their use of internet for a variety of activities" (OECD., 2001: 5).
3. *Capacity development*: This involves the growth of both institutional and individual capabilities for the purpose of internet development.

Sociocultural

1. *Content policy*: This is a kind of internet policy to bridge the gap between the individuals’ right of free access to internet and local cultural attributes.
2. *Cultural diversity*: This refers to “the differences between people based on a shared ideology and valued set of beliefs, norms, customs, and meanings evidenced in a way of life” (American Nurses Association, 1991).
3. *Multilingualism*: On one hand, this points out to the variety of languages as a means of communication and on the other hand, it relates to the users’ adoption of other languages in computer-mediated communications.
4. *Online education*: This is defined as "the creation and proliferation of the personal computer, the globalization of ideas and other human acts, and the use of technology in exchanging ideas and providing access to more people" (Natarajan, 2006: 250).
5. *Global public good*: This means that internet is non-rival and non-excludable in consumption and it benefits individuals and institutions all around the world.

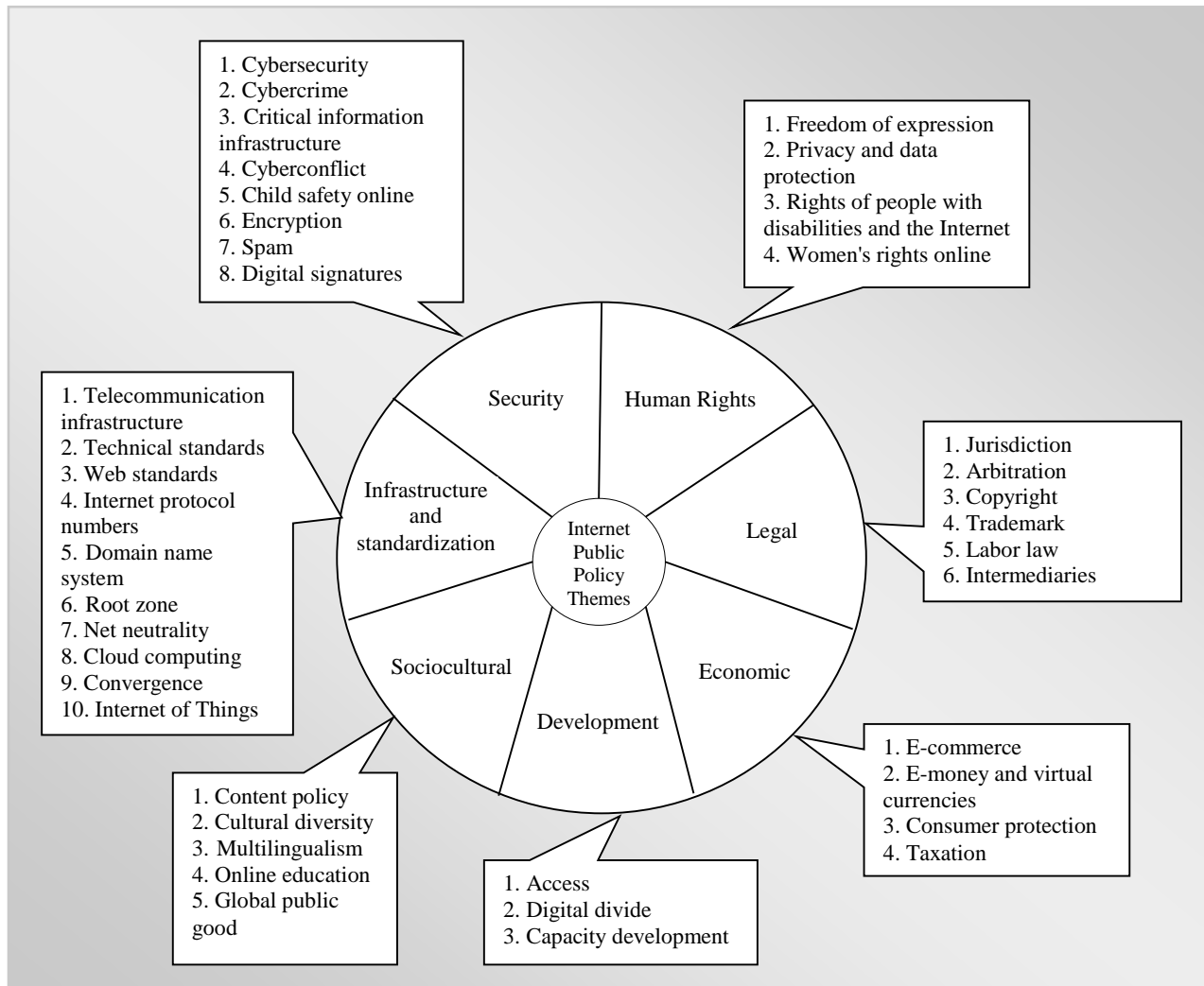


Figure 1 Classification framework for internet public policy themes

Results

All 427 identified articles were analyzed by year of publication, number of articles in the selected journal and area topics.

Distribution of articles by year

Figure 2. shows the distribution of published articles from 1979 to 2015. It can be observed that number of researches pertaining to internet public policy themes was limited before 1997. The maximum frequency of articles belongs to 2011 indicating the scholars' increased attention to internet policy issues.

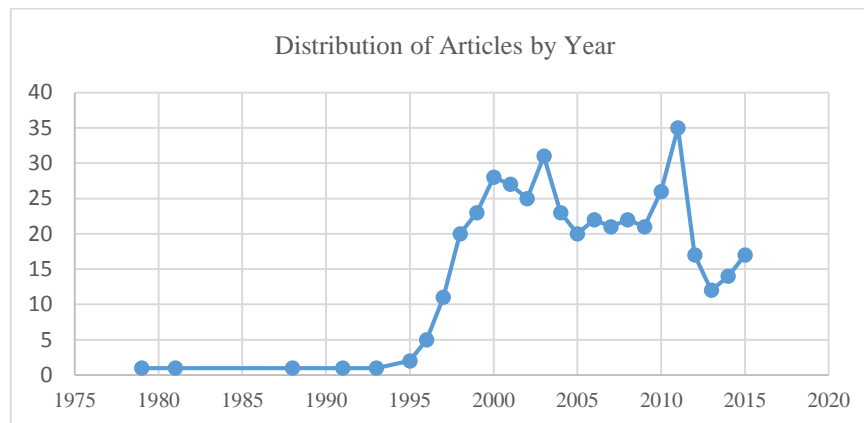


Figure 2 Distribution of articles from 1979 to 2015

Distribution of articles by journal

Among 267 journals, 67 journals had more than one article. Figure 3. depicts those journals containing more than 3 published articles. It also shows that the journal of *Telecommunication Policy* has the most articles related to internet public policy themes. It is a monthly journal dealing with the roles of information and communication technologies (ICT) in the economy and society. *The Information Society: An International Journal* and *Info* have the second and third largest number of articles. *The Information Society: An International Journal* is a bimonthly and multidisciplinary journal intending to analyze the information policy issues acting on society while *Info*, the journal of policy, regulation and strategy for telecommunications, information and media, is a bimonthly journal synthesizing the technological changes from various aspects in fields of economics, politics, social sciences, engineering and law.

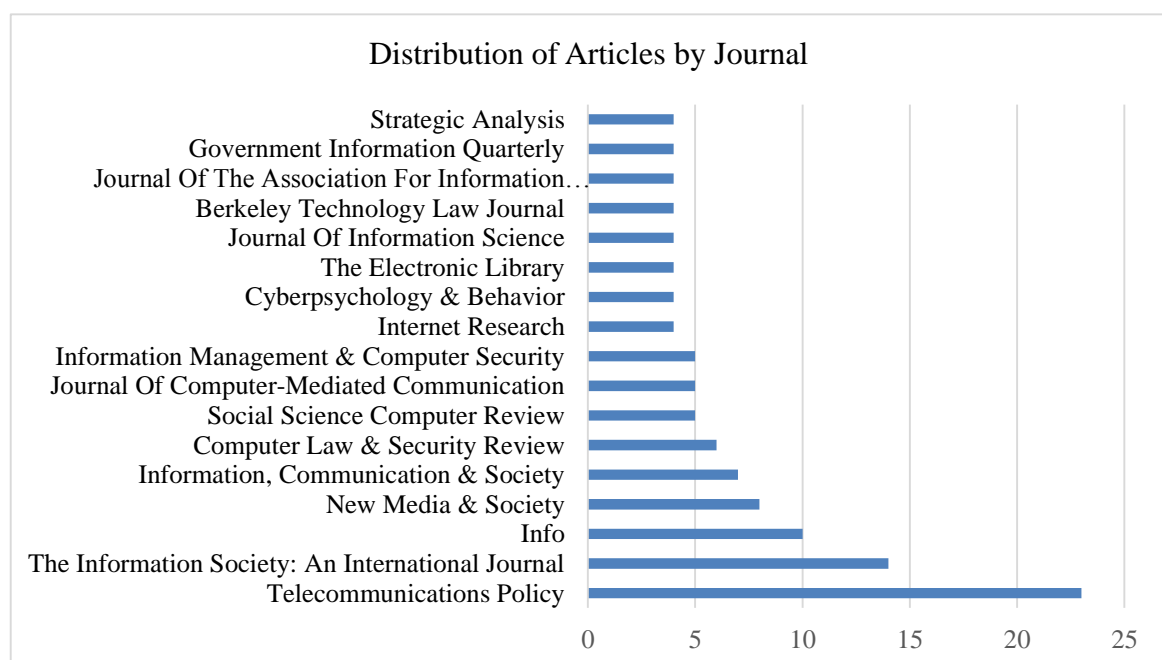


Figure 3 Distribution of articles in journals with more than 3 articles

Distribution of articles by topics

The distribution of articles by topics is depicted in in figure 1. It shows that the majority of published articles in internet public policy themes belong to ‘Infrastructure and standardization’ (95 articles, 22%) while ‘Economic’ has the least number (22 articles, 5%). Table 1 lists the number of articles in ten sub-themes of infrastructure and standardization. It can be observed that most of the articles are related to Net Neutrality (24%) and Convergence (18%). Table 2 presents the number of articles in eight sub-themes of security among which digital signature (22%) and child safety online (18%) were top two issues. Table 3 shows the number of articles in topics related to human rights. 41% of articles (28 articles) were on Privacy and Data Protection while 28% of articles (19 articles) were related to Rights of People with Disabilities and the Internet. Table 4 displays the number of articles relevant to issues of legal theme. 41% of articles were related to jurisdiction and 22% of articles were on copyright. Table 5 indicates that among the issues related to the economic theme, E-Money and Virtual Currencies has attracted the most attention with 36% of published articles. According to Table 6 and Table 7, digital divide (73%) and content policy (48%) have the largest number of published articles in two development and sociocultural themes. It is also mentionable that digital divide, with the number of 52 published articles, is the most interested internet public policy issue among all reviewed scholarly articles. Table 8 summarizes all reviewed articles according to the classification scheme leveling the ground for all researchers interested in the study of internet public policy.

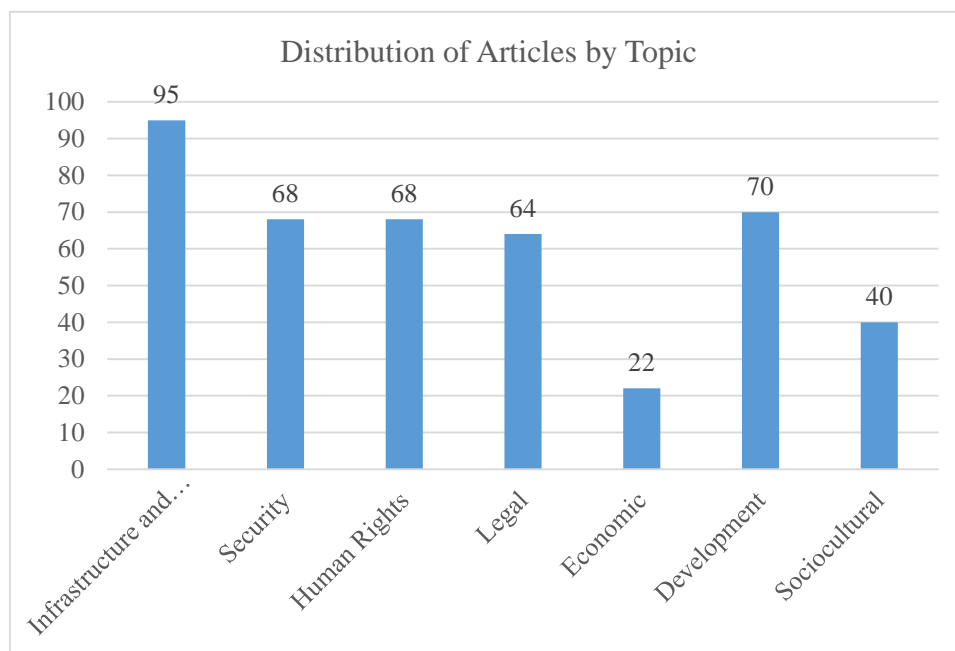


Figure 4 Distribution of articles by topics

Table 1 Number of Infrastructure and standardization articles

Infrastructure and standardization	No.	%
Telecommunication Infrastructure	13	14
Technical Standards	8	8
Web Standards	5	5
Internet Protocol Numbers	2	2
Domain Name System	5	5
Root Zone	1	1
Net Neutrality	23	24
Cloud Computing	12	13
Convergence	17	18
The Internet of Things	9	9
Total	95	100

Table 2 Number of security articles

Security	No.	%
Cybersecurity	10	15
Cybercrime	9	13
Critical Information Infrastructure	4	6
Cyberconflict	10	15
Child Safety Online	12	18
Encryption	2	3
Spam	6	9
Digital Signatures	15	22
Total	68	100

Table 3 Number of Human Rights articles

Human Rights	No.	%
Freedom of Expression	7	10
Privacy and Data Protection	28	41
Rights of People with Disabilities and the Internet	19	28
Women's Rights Online	14	21
Total	68	100

Table 4 Number of Legal articles

Legal	No.	%
Jurisdiction	26	41
Arbitration	10	16
Copyright	14	22
Trademark	6	9
Labour Law	2	3
Intermediaries	6	9
Total	64	100

Table 5 Number of Economic articles

Economic	No.	%
E-Commerce	2	9
E-Money and Virtual Currencies	8	36
Consumer Protection	6	27
Taxation	6	27
Total	22	100

Table 6 Number of Development articles

Development	No.	%
Access	15	21
Digital Divide	51	73
Capacity Development	4	6
Total	70	100

Table 7 Number of Sociocultural articles

Sociocultural	No.	%
Content Policy	19	48
Cultural Diversity	6	15
Multilingualism	4	10
Online Education	7	18
Global Public Good	4	10
Total	40	100

Table 8 Classification of reviewed articles

Themes	Sub-themes	References
Infrastructure and standardization	Telecommunication Infrastructure	(Lamberton, 1996) (DeNardis, 2012) (Hukill, 1991) (Kapor & Weitzner, 1993) (Al-mutawakil, et al., 2009) (Afullo, 2000) (Simpson, 2010) (Maiorano & Stern, 2007) (Whalley, 2006) (Flores de Frutos, et al., 1999) (McAdams, et al., 2000) (Best & Thakur, 2009) (Rauen, et al., 2011)
	Technical Standards	(Hovav, et al., 2004) (Flanagin, et al., 2000) (Kitcat, 2004) (Doty & Mulligan, 2013) (Cerf, 1995) (Flanagin, et al., 2010) (Waiyahong & Reddy, 2014) (Hume, 1997)
	Web Standards	(McHale, 2011) (Lingle & Delozier, 1998) (Tran, 2008) (Nacer & Aissani, 2014) (Kelly, 1999)
	Internet Protocol Numbers	(Klein, 2002) (Ryan, et al., 2007)
	Domain Name System	(Lipton, 2010) (Mockapetris & Dunlap, 1988) (Chaudri, 2010) (Wang, 2006) (Zook, 2000)
	Root Zone	(Castro, et al., 2008)
	Net Neutrality	(Shin, 2014) (Hogendorn, 2007) (Krämer, et al., 2013) (Ganley & Allgrove, 2006) (Lee & Kim, 2014) (Herman & Kim, 2014) (Donahue, 2010) (Singer & Litan, 2007) (Kim, et al., 2011) (Economides, 2008) (Hart, 2011) (Anderson, 2007) (Sandvig, 2007) (Manwaring, 2010) (Economides & Tåg, 2012) (Wu, 2003) (McKee, 2011) (Cheng, et al., 2010) (D'Annunzio & Russo, 2015) (Nooren, et al., 2012) (Guo, et al., 2010) (Crocioni, 2011) (Crowcroft, 2007)
	Cloud Computing	(Wang, et al., 2010) (Jaeger, et al., 2008) (Weinhardt, et al., 2009) (Dhar, 2012) (Prince, 2011) (Vouk, 2008) (Ward & Sipior, 2010) (Grobauer, et al., 2011) (Gangwar, et al., 2015) (Low, et al., 2011) (Bushhousen, 2011) (Dinh, et al., 2013)
	Convergence	(Chon, et al., 2003) (Wu, 2004) (Perrucci & Cimatoribus, 1997) (Shin, 2006) (Ono & Aoki, 1998) (Blackman, 1998) (Ojanperä, 2006) (Henten, et al., 2003) (Mueller, 1999) (Studer, 2001) (Xing, et al., 2011) (Santosa, et al., 2008) (Iosifidis, 2002) (Zixiang, 1999) (Borés, et al., 2003) (Shin, 2005) (Tadayoni & Skouby, 1999)

	The Internet of Things	(Waseem, et al., 2015) (Gao & Bai, 2014) (Psannis, et al., 2014) (Gubbi, et al., 2013) (Miorandi, et al., 2012) (Andersson & Mattsson, 2015) (Karimova & Shirkhanbeik, 2015) (Atzori, et al., 2010) (Fernandez, 2015)
Security	Cybersecurity	(Shore, et al., 2011) (Gupta & Samuel, 2014) (Pusey & Sadera, 2011) (Warner, 2012) (Ten, 2010) (Bauer & Eeten, 2009) (Smith & Rupp, 2002) (Lewis, 2014) (Mattern, et al., 2014) (Harknett & Stever, 2009)
	Cybercrime	(Ciardhuáin, 2004) (Rege-Patwardhan, 2009) (Moitra, 2004) (Martin & Rice, 2011) (Winder & Trump, 2015) (Wall & Williams, 2013) (Fafinski, 2011) (Vlachos, et al., 2011) (Benoliel, 2015)
	Critical Information Infrastructure	(Kang, 2008) (Assaf, 2008) (Dunn, 2005) (Brechtbühl, et al., 2010)
	Cyberconflict	(Schmitt, 2012) (Wong-Lo, et al., 2011) (Heickerö, 2014) (Warf, 2015) (Sharma, 2010) (Rid & McBurney, 2012) (Grigg, 2012) (Gandhi, 2011) (Kaiser, 2015) (Karatzogianni, 2004)
	Child Safety Online	(Facera, 2012) (Sengupta & Chaudhuri, 2011) (Hertzel, 2000) (Livingstone & Brake, 2010) (Livingstone, 2013) (Ybarra & Mitchell, 2004) (McCarty, et al., 2011) (Mitchell, et al., 2001) (Sharples, et al., 2009) (Atkinson, et al., 2009) (Oswell, 1998) (Mitchell, et al., 2003)
	Encryption	(Kennedy, 2000) (Walker, 1999)
	Spam	(Schryen, 2007) (Al-Kadhi, 2011) (Wall, 2004) (Heymann, et al., 2007) (Bambauer, 2005) (Khong, 2001)
	Digital Signatures	(Lee, et al., 2003) (Kling, et al., 1999) (Zaba, 2006) (Kuechlera & Grupe, 2003) (Matyas, 1979) (Al-Slamy, 2008) (Abbas & Al-Hayan, 2003) (Srivastava, 2009) (Nunno, 2000) (Meissonnier & Banat-Berger, 2015) (Lusoli & Companˆo', 2010) (Srivastava, 2005) (Lui-Kwan, 1999) (Stern, 2001) (Saripan & Hamin, 2011)
Human Rights	Freedom of Expression	(Hamilton & Pors, 2003) (SØraker, 2008) (Andrew, 2010) (Atton, 1995) (McGoldrick, 2013) (Kerr & Bailey, 2004) (Brophy & Halpin, 1999)
	Privacy and Data Protection	(Milne, et al., 2004) (Buchanan, et al., 2007) (Earp, et al., 2005) (Sarma & Girão, 2009) (Smith, et al., 2011) (Antón, et al., 2010) (Schwartz, 1999) (Paine, et al., 2007) (Chai, et al., 2009) (Weber, 2010) (Dinev & Hart, 2004) (Baumer, et al., 2004) (Mekovec, 2010) (Tan, 1999) (Groemminger, 2003) (Cate, 2000)

		(Samuelson , 2000) (Bélanger & Crossler, 2011) (Berman & Mulligan, 1998) (Rosenbaum, 1998) (Bowie & Jamal, 2006) (Harris, et al., 2003) (Attaran & VanLaar, 1999) (Cho & LaRose, 1999) (Younga & Quan-Haase, 2013) (Anga, 2001) (Rooy & Bus, 2010) (Zimmerman, 2001)
	Rights of People with Disabilities and the Internet	(Jaeger, 2013) (Williamson, et al., 2001) (Dobransky & Hargittaia , 2006) (Grimaldi & Goette, 1999) (Ritchie & Blanck , 2003) (Hauber , et al., 2002) (Carey, et al., 2005) (Bowker & Tuffin, 2004) (Noble, 2002) (Carter & Marker, 2001) (Raghavendra, et al., 2012) (Seiler, et al., 1998) (Seymour & Lupton, 2004) (Simpson, 2009) (Chadwick, et al., 2013) (Vicente & López, 2010) (Thoreau, 2006) (Domingo, 2012) (Baker & Bellordre, 2003)
	Women's Rights Online	(Bahdi, 2000) (Corley & Hook, 2012) (Ono & Zavodny, 2003) (Shirazi, 2012) (Stowasser, 2001) (Sutton & Pollock, 2000) (Hughes, 1996) (DiMaggio, et al., 2001) (Harcourt, 2000) (Morahan-Martin, 2000) (Scott, et al., 1999) (Riahinia & Azimi, 2008) (Wheeler, 2007) (Vogt & Chen , 2001)
Legal	Jurisdiction	(Spencer, 2006) (Menthe, 1998) (Puathasnanon, 1998) (Kalow, 1997) (Wilske & Schiller, 1997) (Allen, 2001) (Dunne & Musacchio, 1998) (Gray, 2002) (Xavier & Yan, 2002) (Brimmer, 1981) (Rice, 2000) (Trudel , 1998) (Mefford, 1997) (Wang, 2008) (Gilman , 2000) (Lyn, 2000) (Hestermeyer, 2006) (Goldsmith, 1998) (Stein , 1998) (Hoegle & Boam, 2000) (Goldsmith, 2000) (Oberding & Norderhaug, 1996) (August, 2002) (Mika & Reber, 1997) (Timofeeva , 2004) (Trammell & Bambauer , 2015)
	Arbitration	(Schultz, 2008) (Girsberger & Schramm, 2002) (Perritt, 2000) (Thornburg , 2000) (Biukovic, 2002) (Victorio, 2001) (Schultz, 2011) (Samuels & Samuels, 2003) (Sewart & Matthews, 2002) (Almaguer & Baggott , 1998)
	Copyright	(Barnett, 1999) (Landesman, 1998) (Seadle, 2008) (Rao, 2003) (Oddie, 1999) (Gasaway, 1998) (Mahesh & Mittal, 2009) (Frankel, 2010) (Bide, 2009) (Oppenheim, 2000) (Yang, et al., 2009) (Bunker, 2001) (Muir, 2012) (Shipley BA and JD, 1996)
	Trademark	(Weiswasser, 1997) (Lim, 2002) (Spinello, 2006) (Dueker, 1996) (Scott, 2013) (Johnson, 2015)
	Labour Law	(Postigo, 2003) (Fuchs, 2010)

	Intermediaries	(Barnesa & Hinton, 2007) (Arlandis & Baranes, 2011) (Just, 2003) (Asensio, 2012) (Chircu & Kauffman, 1999) (Gorman & Malecki, 2000)
Economic	E-Commerce	(Gibbs, et al., 2003) (Castronova, et al., 2015)
	E-Money and Virtual Currencies	(Berentsen, 1998) (Owen & Fogelstrom, 2005) (Andrieu, 2001) (Andrieu, 2001) (Mikołajewicz-Woźniak & Scheibe, 2015) (Cohen, 2001) (Singh, 1999) (Lelieveldt, 1997)
	Consumer Protection	(Milne, et al., 2004) (Maggs, 1998) (Goldsmith & McGregor, 2000) (Buchanan, et al., 2007) (Davis, 1997) (Struve & Wagner, 2002)
	Taxation	(Best & Teske, 2002) (Bruce, et al., 2004) (Jones & Basu, 2002) (Cobb, et al., 2014) (Nesbary, 2000) (Morset, 1997)
Development	Access	(Coetzee & Eloff, 2005) (Ngini, et al., 2002) (Jakopin & Klein, 2011) (Spacey, et al., 2015) (Hamilton & Pors, 2003) (Gong, et al., 2007) (Hargittai, 2004) (Oyedemi, 2014) (Fan, 2002) (Simpson, et al., 2004) (Claessens, et al., 2003) (Napoli & Obar, 2014) (Holman & McGregor, 2005) (Viseu, et al., 2006) (van Deursen & van Dijk, 2015)
	Digital Divide	(Furuholt & Kristiansen, 2007) (Dewan, et al., 2005) (Arendt, 2008) (Sharma, et al., 2009) (Hawkins & Hawkins, 2003) (Xia & Lu, 2008) (Gebremichael & Jackson, 2006) (Servon & Nelson, 2001) (Kaiser, 2005) (Wei, et al., 2011) (Kauffman & Techatassanasoontorn, 2005) (Shelley, et al., 2004) (Mutula, 2008) (Mariscal, 2005) (Warschauer, 2003) (Hacker & Mason, 2003) (Hermana & Silfianti, 2011) (Guillén & Suárez, 2005) (Servon, 2002) (Roycroft & Anantho, 2003) (Muir & Oppenheim, 2002) (Opalinski MSW, 2001) (Baker, 2001) (Carveth & Kretchmer, 2002) (Jackson, et al., 2008) (Mansell, 2002) (Barzilai-Nahona, 2006) (Cheong, 2007) (Nicholas, 2003) (Crenshaw & Robison, 2006) (Livingstone & Helsper, 2007) (Talukdar & Gauri, 2011) (Rice, 2003) (Selwyn, 2004) (Lenhart, et al., 2003) (Warf, 2001) (Wilson, et al., 2003) (Turpin & Cooper, 2005) (Howard, 2007) (Kvasny & Keil, 2006) (Dijk & Hacker, 2003) (Riggins & Dewan, 2005) (Wyatt, et al., 2005) (Hoffman, et al., 2000) (Jaeger, et al., 2012) (Ferro, et al., 2011) (Gilbert, et al., 2008) (Helbig, et al., 2009) (Epstein, et al., 2011) (Wareham, et al., 2004) (Dasgupta, et al., 2005)

	Capacity Development	(Robison & Crenshaw, 2002) (Guillén & Suárez, 2001) (Perfiliev, 2002) (Crenshaw & Robison, 2006)
Sociocultural	Content Policy	(Penfold, 2001) (Khan & Ahmed Khan, 2011) (Islam, et al., 1997) (Lehdonvirta & Virtanen, 2010) (Mohan, et al., 1999) (Ghose & Han, 2011) (Cho & Cheon, 2005) (Benkler, 1998) (Gerstenfeld, et al., 2003) (Akdeniz, 2001) (Xue, 2005) (Hoffman, 2006) (Goggin & Griff, 2001) (Frydman & Rorive, 2002) (Thomas & Wyatt, 1999) (Harwit & Clark, 2001) (Oswell, 1999) (Zook, 2001) (Leung, 2009)
	Cultural Diversity	(Shachaf, 2008) (Gerrand, 2006) (Tapanes, et al., 2009) (Hannon & D'Netto, 2007) (Millercibbs MSW & Chadiha, 1999) (Kirkpatrick, et al., 1998)
	Multilingualism	(Gerrand, 2007) (Blommaert, et al., 2009) (Ivkovic & Lotheringtona, 2009) (John, 2013)
	Online Education	(Volery & Lord, 2000) (Mason, 2000) (Larreamendy-Joerns & Leinhardt, 2006) (Rauh, 2011) (Harasim, 2000) (Dykman, & Davis, 2008) (Natarajan, 2006)
	Global Public Good	(Stewart, et al., 2004) (Lunat, 2008) (Papacharissi, 2002) (Gerhards & Schäfer, 2010)

Conclusion

This research reviewed 267 journals to collect information due to the interdisciplinary nature of public policy in cyberspace. The extended literature reviews in this field contributed to the identification of 427 articles between 1979 and 2015. According to the research findings, the journal of *Telecommunication Policy* had the largest number of articles among the other identified journals. In the field of internet public policy themes, *Infrastructure and standardization* had the largest number of articles among the other themes indicating the significance of this field of public policy while *Digital divide* had the largest number among all sub-themes. Also, the number of articles related to internet public policy themes reached their maximum in 2011 showing its increased importance during last 30 years. This extended literature review provides an exhaustive source for future cyberspace public policy research for practitioners and scholars leveling the ground to develop and produce knowledge by addressing the practical and scientific gap in this field.

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